

Joshua E. Dubs, Esq.
Cathedral Park Tower
37 Franklin Street, Ste. 1000
Buffalo, New York 14202



Digitally signed
by Kathryn Ross
Date: 2017.11.07
08:05:32 -05'00'

Kathryn Ross

T: 716.854.2050
F: 716.768.2258
josh@jdubslaw.com
www.jdubslaw.com

November 6, 2017

Federal Election Commission
Office of Complaints Examination
and Legal Administration
Attn.: Jeff S. Jordan, Esq.
999 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20463

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Re: MUR 7277

Dear Mr. Jordan,

Please allow this to serve as a response from both Buffalo for Bernie Sanders and Brian Nowak in his capacity as treasurer for Buffalo for Bernie Sanders as to the complaint made by Peter Reese dated September 13, 2016 and identified by the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") as MUR 7144 (the "Complaint").

It is important to note the background and context in which the Complaint was lodged by Mr. Reese. Mr. Nowak is currently the endorsed Democratic, Working Families, and Women's Equality Party candidate for this year's Town Council race in the Town of Cheektowaga, New York. Mr. Reese, in his capacity as an attorney, represented Mr. Nowak's opponent in the Democratic primary on September 12, 2017. At its core, Mr. Reese's Complaint is nothing more than a politically motivated attack against Mr. Nowak for the sole purpose of influencing an election.

As to the substance of the Complaint lodged by Mr. Reese, the alleged wrong doing not only lacks merit, but is disingenuous to the point of bordering on defamation and harassment. The underlying facts of the Complaint revolve around the 2015-2016 democratic primary campaign for then U.S. Presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders, which both Mr. Nowak and Mr. Reese were intimately involved with.

Mr. Nowak was, in fact, the treasurer for the federal Buffalo for Bernie Sanders campaign in Buffalo, NY (now terminated). Mr. Nowak was not the treasurer for related state campaign committees. Mr. Reese, acted as counsel and an advisor to the "purported political committee" Buffalo for Bernie Sanders, a fact Mr. Reese failed to mention in his Complaint.

¹ See Mr. Reese's complaint, paragraph 1.

His tacit characterizing that he did not have a central role in this campaign are wholly without merit, misleading, and a misrepresentation of the facts to the FEC. As the accompanying affidavit of Brian Nowak shows, Mr. Reese was crucial in helping set up the campaign, set up the bank accounts, obtain an EIN number, and file appropriate forms with the appropriate municipal entities. He also regularly provided general legal advice to the campaign.

During this time Mr. Nowak and Mr. Reese exchanged several emails and communicated often. The following is a summary of relevant emails exchanged between Mr. Reese and Mr. Nowak in organizing the efforts for Bernie Sanders in Buffalo, New York (copies of the emails are attached to Mr. Nowak's affidavit):

- **8.18.2015: Peter Reese sends an email to Andrea Lingenfelter indicating that he is working with Sanders campaign and can provide information to interested parties.**
- **8.19.2015: Peter Reese sends an email to Buffalo for Bernie email account, addressed to Brian Nowak touting his political resume and influence in WNY:**

"I know politicians all over WNY and many are friends I can ask favors of, even if they don't support Bernie Sanders"

"I am actively involved in buying and/or starting an alternative news weekly with a regular blog along the lines of the moribund Artvoice or The Public. Frank Parlato who owns the Niagara Falls Reporter, South Buffalo Times and Lackawanna Frontpage is an active co-conspirator in my efforts to save the world."

"Chuck with no last name, the finance kid, is not moving fast enough on getting us a registered finance committee and he is hard to contact."

- **8.27.2015: Email exchange between Peter Reese and Brian Nowak about obtaining an EIN and opening an account for the campaign:**

On Thursday, August 27, 2015 7:48 PM,
wrote:

Not really necessary, but we'll get one to make First Niagara happy. No harm done, just a little silly. Our Buffalo-Niagara No Kill PAC uses my SS#. Pete Reese

In a message dated 8/27/2015 12:10:01 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, writes:

Peter,
Chuck Pacholoski has mentioned the need for an Employer Identification Number as a necessary element to set up a bank account for the Buffalo for Bernie independent expenditures committee. I don't recall this in our talk at

Panos on Tuesday, and to the best of my knowledge, this is unnecessary. EIN's are used by for-profit businesses

Is there a need for Buffalo for Bernie to have an EIN?

Brian Nowak

- **9.13.2015 email from Peter Reese to "Chuck", subject matter CF-02 (NYS Board of Elections Form):**

"I need an original to file. Only have a copy. Is Brian a secondary signer on checkbook?"

- **9.14.2015 email from** **to Pete Reese:**

"Brian is not a secondary signer on the account. We can make him one later on. Did pasquale give you one of the CF02s? I'll be texting you tomorrow in case you don't receive this email right away. I can get you the original CF02, but it's not date stamped by the Erie County board of elections. Let me know if thats a problem. I'll be available tomorrow at Resurgence Brewing. We're closed but i can bring the original CF02 & i can give it to you if youre able to drop by. Like i said i'll text you tomorrow morning to let you know when i'll be there. If youre not able to swing by, we can arrange another time to meet up. "

- **9.14.2015 email from Pete Reese instructing Buffalo for Bernie as follows:**

"Call me.

- **9.15.2015 email from Peter Reese to** **and Buffalo**
for Bernie:

"This has nothing to do with Erie County!!!! Please stop free lancing and get me what you have. Now!!! I am in Court and busy all day Monday."

- **10.27.2015 email chain between Pete Reese and Brian Nowak from Bernie for Buffalo:**

From:

Date: October 27, 2015 at 7:42:59 PM EDT

To: buffaloforbernie@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Rejection letter

Good to see this a month late. I have no confidence Chuck can or will do anything.

In a message dated 10/23/2015 8:56:05 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time, buffaloforbernie@gmail.com writes:

Pete,
Here's the rejection letter from the State board of elections.
Brian

Mr. Reese's active involvement organizing campaign efforts for Bernie Sander is further evidenced by the following documents attached hereto:

- o "CF-03 form" creating the New York State committee for Buffalo for Bernie notarized by Peter Reese.
- o Buffalo Chronicle Article from December of 2015 highlighting Mr. Reese's involvement with the Bernie for Buffalo campaign.

It is submitted that Mr. Reese's efforts in filing his Complaint are simply nothing more than an attempt to smear a political candidate running for Town Council in the Town of Cheektowaga, New York. Not only was Mr. Reese the attorney for Mr. Nowak's primary opponent Alice Magierski. Mr. Reese and his wife were the two top political donors to Ms. Magierski. Mr. Nowak defeated Ms. Magierski in the September 12, 2017 democratic primary as the top vote getter. An article from the Cheektowaga Chronicle covering the race is attached hereto notes the following:

According to Mr. Reese, during the campaign, he fought to keep Ms. Magierski's name on the ballot after a campaign worker from Mr. Nowak's campaign challenged the validity of Ms. Magierski's petitions. There were no listed expenditures to Mr. Reese.

It is no coincidence that Mr. Reese's Complaint was dated September 13, 2017, the very next day following the primary in which Mr. Nowak was successful against Ms. Magierski. At a minimum it would appear that the Complaint is retribution for Mr. Nowak's success over Mr. Reese's preferred candidate.

As theatrical as this tale already appears, it is worth noting an additional element which is likely motivating Mr. Reese's Complaint. Prior to the race for Town Council in Cheektowaga, the relationship between Mr. Nowak and Mr. Reese quickly deteriorated during the 2016 primary for Erie County (New York) District Attorney. At the time, Mr. Reese was vocally supporting the interim District Attorney Michael Flaherty's election efforts. Meanwhile, Mr. Nowak and much of the Bernie Sanders organizers were supporting a candidate Mark Sacha. The NY State of Politics blog post attached to Mr. Reese's Complaint correctly documents this conflict.

Shortly before the 2016 primary election, Mr. Reese sent the following emails in response to a Buffalo for Bernie press release announcing its endorsement of Mr. Sacha for District Attorney (emails are attached to Mr. Nowak's affidavit):

August 10, 2016 email from Peter A. Reese to Buffalo for Bernie:

"You just picked two losers. In addition, Wallace is an ECDC HQ hack. Way to Bernout"

August 27, 2016 email from Peter Reese to inquiry@marksacha.com and copying buffaloforbernie@gmail.com:

From:

Date: August 27, 2016 at 11:14:05 PM EDT

To: inquiry@marksacha.com

Cc: buffaloforbernie@gmail.com

Subject: Fwd: Sacha Whining

Comments welcome. Are you going to indict Brian when you become DA?

Pete Reese

The allegations by Mr. Reese in the Complaint are that \$750 worth of contributions from him to the Buffalo for Bernie Sanders campaign were not properly itemized on disclosure reports with the FEC. It should be noted that Mr. Reese does not indicate which campaign these checks were donated to (either state or federal committees). In any event, as set out above, Mr. Reese was undoubtedly advising the campaign during this period of time on virtually every aspect of operations. The federal campaign committee, organized as "Buffalo for Bernie Sanders" with ID number C00609602 was opened on February 21, 2016 and was terminated on April 18, 2016 according to filings with the FEC. Both the September 15, 2015 check for \$450.00 (Check #916) and the October 10, 2015 check for \$200.00 (Check #234) were made over four months before any campaign account was even created with the FEC and during the period of time in 2015 that Mr. Reese was advising the formation of the Bernie Sanders campaign in Buffalo (*See* emails attached to Mr. Nowak's affidavit).²

Meanwhile, Mr. Reese's check for \$100.00 dated March 5, 2016 (check #976) was below the \$200 threshold for required itemized deductions during a calendar year under FEC rules 11 CFR § 102.9 and 11 CFR § 104.3. This is the only check alleged to not have been itemized during the period of time Mr. Nowak was treasurer.

Regardless of the purely self-serving and defamatory nature of Mr. Reese's actions here, Mr. Nowak, upon receiving direct inquiries from Mr. Reese, attempted to amend the filings with the FEC to include the amounts noted by Mr. Reese. As set out in the accompanying affidavit of Brian Nowak, Mr. Nowak called the FEC on two occasions and requested instructions on how to include the three checks in the FEC itemized disclosure filings. On each of those phone calls Mr. Nowak was instructed that because the campaign

² It is worth emphasizing that Mr. Nowak was not the campaign treasurer during this time and was not even the authorized individual on the state campaign filings. *See* CF-03 which lists Christopher Pucholski as the Committee Treasurer for New York State.

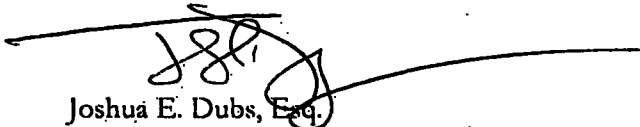
committee was terminated, there was no further action required to be taken. As such, Mr. Nowak determined that no further efforts were required on his part.

Given the clear political motivation behind this Complaint and the otherwise meritless basis, it is respectfully requested that this Complaint be dismissed.

Finally, please allow this to confirm that Mr. Nowak does not give his consent for the release of any information related to this investigation.

If you have any further questions, or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,


Joshua E. Dubs, Esq.

JED/

CC: Brian Nowak (w/ encl.)

DECLARATION

STATE OF NEW YORK)
)SS:
COUNTY OF ERIE)

I, BRIAN NOWAK, being aware that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, declares and states as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18 and competent to make the representations contained in this affidavit.
2. I submit this affidavit in support of my response to the complaint filed with the Federal Election Commission ("FEC") by Peter Reese under MUR 7277 ("Complaint").
3. I have review Complaint and am aware of the facts and circumstances surrounding the allegations contained therein.
4. I was the treasurer of the "Buffalo for Bernie Sanders Campaign" in Buffalo, New York for the campaign committee filed with the FEC under ID number C00609602 from February 21, 2016 until it was terminated on April 18, 2016.
5. From approximately August of 2015 until early 2016, Peter Reese was intimately involved with the operations of the Buffalo for Bernie Sanders campaign helping organize the campaign, open campaign bank accounts, apply for an EIN with the IRS, set up campaign filings and regularly counseled the campaign on legal and compliance matters. During this time Mr. Reese and I had a very cooperative and amicable relationship. To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Reese's involvement with the campaign came to an end by late February 2016

6. Attached hereto as Exhibit A are a series of emails between myself and Mr. Reese (as well as others). These emails were sent, received and documented in the ordinary course of the campaign.
7. On April 18, 2016, the Buffalo for Bernie Sanders campaign was terminated with the FEC as the New York State U.S. Presidential Democratic Primary concluded on April 19, 2016.
8. On or about August of 2016, the relationship with Mr. Reese quickly deteriorated when myself and other organizers from the Buffalo for Bernie Sanders campaign decided to support Mark Sacha for Erie County District Attorney. Mr. Reese was supporting the interim District Attorney Michael Flaherty.
9. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Reese started inquiring about contributions he had made relating to the campaigns for Bernie Sanders going back to 2015.
10. In hopes of resolving any potential conflict with Mr. Reese, I called the FEC twice to inquire about what should be done. On each occasion I was instructed that since the campaign was already terminated that nothing further was required. As such, I made no further attempts to accommodate Mr. Reese.

WHEREFORE, I, Brian Nowak, request the FEC dismiss the complaint filed by Mr. Reese under MUR7277.



Brian Nowak

On Sunday, October 1, 2017, 9:55 AM, buffaloforbernie@gmail.com wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Date: August 19, 2015 at 12:07:45 AM EDT

To: buffaloforbernie@gmail.com

Cc:

Subject: Fwd: Alden Voter Registration List - Bernie Sanders Campaign

Brian Nowak:

This is making my head explode. (BEGIN RANT HERE) WTF is Andrea? We need better coordination. We need people with last names and phone numbers. We need resumes from each volunteer which catalogs their capabilities and available resources.

Ellen and I are political warriors who have been fighting hand-to-hand in the trenches of the Democratic Party since 1968. I will send you my own out of date resume and I'm now going to bring it current. By way of more information, Ellen and I have spent the last 50 years of our lives selflessly fighting the good fight. It is a commitment we made to each other long ago when we were young, foolish and idealistic. Through the years, it has cost us dearly in time, money and lost opportunity for career advancement. But during that time we have built a towering reputation for integrity, decency and dedication to doing what is right. This extends over a broad range of topics from animal welfare, to transparency and accountability in government, to ballot access and electoral fair play, protection of civil liberties and standing up for people who lack the resources to defend themselves against oppression and overreaching of the greedy and powerful.

We do not brag and we do not expect any medals for what we have done. We made our choices and regret nothing other than sometimes foolishly supporting leaders who later proved unworthy. My friends now call me "The Hammer of God" because I use that imagery to psych myself up when I go into battle. When The Hammer of God shows up, miscreants tremble. For instance:

<http://niagarafallsreporter.com/Stories/2015/AUG18/Reese.html>

Evil does hate my guts, fear my ability and grudgingly admit I am doing what is right.

I am an active killer blogger/journalist/photo journalist/lawyer/engineer/berserker/expert on government transparency and election and campaign finance regulations, etc. I know politicians all over WNY and many are friends I can ask favors of, even if they don't support Bernie Sanders. This is what I have done on my summer vacation so far:

<http://blogs.artvoice.com/avdaily/2015/07/14/poloncarz-and-zellner-are-trying-to-take-over-the-green-party/>

<http://blogs.artvoice.com/avdaily/2015/07/20/the-campaign-that-never-was-fumbling-the-green-line/>

<http://blogs.artvoice.com/avdaily/2015/07/16/its-feroleto-in-delaware/>

<http://blogs.artvoice.com/avdaily/2015/07/16/cheektowaga-highway-investigation-report-released/>

<http://blogs.artvoice.com/avdaily/2015/08/11/crushing-the-fruitbelt-community/>

Some believe this guy looks like me.

<http://niagarafallsreporter.com/Stories/2015/AUG11/frui.html>

<http://blogs.artvoice.com/avdaily/2015/08/18/live-from-the-appellate-division-election-law-session/>

<http://blogs.artvoice.com/avdaily/2015/08/18/reminiscing-when-geoff-kelly-threw-me-off-the-artvoice-blog/>

This is a big exclusive story and a work in

progress: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r4RKXMdlrTs>

I am actively involved in buying and/or starting an alternative news weekly with a regular blog along the lines of the moribund Artvoice or The Public. Frank Parlato who owns the Niagara Falls Reporter, South Buffalo Times and Lackawanna Frontpage is an active co-conspirator in my efforts to save the world.

Ellen and I are financially comfortable. WE don't borrow money, WE lend it. WE don't get paid for voter lists, mailings, consulting, election law work, canvassing, etc. WE PAY for such things. We have our own animal welfare PAC (Buffalo-Niagara No Kill PAC - A19490) (END RANT HERE)

I will get this lady what she needs, but we need to coordinate better. Chuck with no last name, the finance kid, is not moving fast enough on getting us a registered finance committee and he is hard to contact.

Please call me when you can. As Hillary continues to cavitate, we may have an outstanding opportunity to push the local and national political envelope where we want it to go. Let's not fail to use the resources we have at hand to maximize our impact.

Pete Reese

From:
To:
Sent: 8/18/2015 11:03:49 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Re: Alden Voter Registration List

Dear Pete Reese,

Thank you for responding via Paul Wolf to my request. If you are able I need a list of registered Democrats in Town of Alden, NY. I live in Alden and will be willing to canvass house by house for Bernie.
I also might assist in Town of Lancaster if you can also provide that list.

Let me know and I will arrange to pick up the lists and pay your for your time, money, or any mailing.

Thank you again,

Andrea

On Aug 18, 2015, at 4:40 AM, wrote:

I am working with the Sanders campaign and can get you anything you want in Erie or Niagara Counties. I don't usually print stuff, but can get it done at Rapid Ray's.

Pete Reese

In a message dated 8/17/2015 10:00:52 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time, writes:

Andrea,

I saw your post on the Bernie Sanders Facebook page that you were having difficulty obtaining a list of registered Democrats in Alden.

I am copying Peter Reese on this email. Peter seems to always have an updated voter list and he may be able to help you out.

Paul Wolf

On Thursday, August 27, 2015 7:48 PM,

wrote:

Not really necessary, but we'll get one to make First Niagara happy. No harm done, just a little silly. Our Buffalo-Niagara No Kill PAC uses my SS#.

Pete Reese

In a message dated 8/27/2015 12:10:01 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,

writes:

Peter,

Chuck Pacholoski has mentioned the need for an Employer Identification Number as a necessary element to set up a bank account for the Buffalo for Bernie independent expenditures committee. I don't recall this in our talk at Panos on Tuesday, and to the best of my knowledge, this is unnecessary. EIN's are used by for-profit businesses.

Is there a need for Buffalo for Bernie to have an EIN?

Brian Nowak

On Wednesday, July 29, 2015 8:12 PM, Peter A Reese wrote:

Please call me

Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE smartphone

Begin forwarded message:

On Sunday, October 1, 2017, 9:51 AM, buffaloforbernie@gmail.com wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Date: September 14, 2015 at 5:34:10 AM EDT

To: buffaloforbernie@gmail.com

Subject: Finances

Call me.

ed n - 09/17/17

October 1, 2017, 9:51 AM, buffaloforbernie@gmail.com wrote:

om my iPhone

Forwarded message:

From:
Date: September 14, 2015 at 5:32:14 AM EDT
To:
Cc: buffaloforbernie@gmail.com
Subject: Re: CF-02

This has nothing to do with Erie County!!!! Please stop free lancing and get me what you have. Now!!! I am in Court and busy all day Monday.

Pete Reese

In a message dated 9/14/2015 12:27:19 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
writes:

Brian is not a secondary signer on the account. We can make him one later on. Did pasquale give you one of the CF02s? I'll be texting you tomorrow in case you don't receive this email right away. I can get you the original CF02, but it's not date stamped by the Erie County board of elections. Let me know if thats a problem. I'll be available tomorrow at Resurgence Brewing. We're closed but i can bring the original CF02 & i can give it to you if youre able to drop by. Like i said i'll text you tomorrow morning to let you know when i'll be there. If youre not able to swing by, we can arrange another time to meet up.

On Sun, Sep 13, 2015 at 1:38 AM,
Chuck:

wrote:

Pete Reese

Pete Reese

Begin forwarded message:

On Sunday, October 1, 2017, 9:50 AM, buffaloforbernie@gmail.com wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From:
Date: October 27, 2015 at 7:42:59 PM EDT
To: buffaloforbernie@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Rejection letter

Good to see this a month late. I have no confidence Chuck can or will do anything.

In a message dated 10/23/2015 8:56:05 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
buffaloforbernie@gmail.com writes:

Pete,

Here's the rejection letter from the State board of elections.

Brian

----- Forwarded message -----

From: charles pacholski
Date: Thursday, October 22, 2015
Subject: Rejection letter
To: Brian Nowak <buffaloforbernie@gmail.com>

Begin forwarded message:

On Sunday, October 1, 2017, 10:00 AM, buffaloforbernie@gmail.com wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From:

Date: August 10, 2016 at 3:43:30 PM EDT

To: BuffaloForBernie@gmail.com

Subject: Re: Our Local Endorsements

You just picked two losers. In addition, Wallace is a ECDC HQ hack. Way to Bernout.

Peter A. Reese

In a message dated 8/10/2016 3:13:53 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time,
BuffaloForBernie@gmail.com writes:

Buffalo For Bernie endorsing Sacha and Wallace

[View this email in your browser](#)



Friends,

After some discussion among the local Sanders elected delegates and others who are organizing the successor organization to Buffalo for Bernie, we have decided to make candidate endorsements in two Democratic primaries taking place on September 13th.

We have decided to endorse Mark Sacha for Erie County District Attorney and Monica Wallace for NYS Assembly in the 143rd district. Mark is the most experienced of the 3 candidates in the Democratic Primary. He has a track record of fighting political corruption. Monica is a political newcomer who has a legal background and progressive principles that will make her an effective legislator for working people on day 1.

These are two important races that we hope you will all volunteer for. Please consider donating to these two candidates and help them with their September 13th primary election. Candidates can get their message out if many of us step and give \$10, \$20, or more at a time when we can.

Below are links to their websites. Social media links for Mark included.

Mark Sacha: <http://www.sacha4da.com/>

- On Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MarkSachaEsq>

- On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MarkSachaEsq>

Monica Wallace: <http://www.wallaceforassembly.com/>

We have also included the text of our press release for you as well. Hope to see you all Saturday at Sugar City on Niagara Street. RSVP if you would like to attend the first public meeting of our new Progressive Political Club.

In Solidarity,

Brian Nowak
Buffalo for Bernie Sanders

Buffalo for Bernie Sanders

Contact: Brian Nowak

Phone: (716) 400-****

Email: BuffaloforBernie@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Buffalo for Bernie Sanders has been active in the local political scene over the last year. We have had the opportunity to meet a number of candidates running for state and local office. Buffalo for Bernie is making endorsements in two Democratic Primaries.

For District Attorney: Buffalo for Bernie endorses Mark Sacha for Erie County District Attorney. Mark Sacha has over 22 years experience in the DA's office covering a number of different positions including Deputy District Attorney and head of the following: Narcotics Bureau, Grand Jury, Buffalo Police Bureau, and Special Investigation Bureau. Sacha has spent over 3 decades practicing law and has tried a number of high-profile, difficult cases while in the DA's office.

Mark Sacha played a pivotal role in exposing the election law violations involving Steve Pigeon. He has the tenacity and willingness to prosecute the powerful, when warranted, and is needed in all our public servants.

For NYS Assembly 143rd: Buffalo for Bernie endorses Monica Wallace for the NYS Assembly. Monica Wallace has experience as a law clerk for a federal judge. She is also a faculty member at UB's law school. Wallace represents a clean break from the issues of

scandal that has been an ongoing problem in the 143rd for years now. She will be a strong, progressive, and responsive voice for the voters in the district. Wallace has the endorsement of the Working Families party and is not running for election on the Conservative party list.

Buffalo for Bernie will work to support these candidates and help them win their September 13th Democratic primary elections. Our organization intends on remaining a permanent force in WNY politics.



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You received this email because you have volunteered for or attended an event hosted by Buffalo for Bernie. Still subscribed to keep up what the political revolution has in store for WNY!

Our mailing address is:

Buffalo for Bernie Sanders

1153 Parkside Ct.

Buffalo, NY 14214

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You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

Begin forwarded message:

On Sunday, October 1, 2017, 9:53 AM, buffaloforbernie@gmail.com wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From:
Date: August 27, 2016 at 11:14:05 PM EDT
To: inquiry@marksacha.com
Cc: buffaloforbernie@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Sacha Whining

Comments welcome. Are you going to indict Brian when you become DA?

Pete Reese

From:
To: Ryan.Whalen@TWCNews.com
Sent: 8/16/2016 5:46:17 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time
Subj: Sacha Whining

Ryan:

Attached find the Nowak/Sacha complaint to the EC BoE, the only financial report ever filed by Buffalo for Bernie, and copies of three checks from Ellen and I to Buffalo for Bernie.

I suggest you have someone call Mr. Nowak to determine whether he is the same Brian Nowak who, as Treasurer of Buffalo for Bernie, never reported these three contributions.

Pete Reese

1-800-444-4444

Democratic candidates spent \$40k on Cheektowaga council primary

By Jim Herr - October 5, 2017

CHEEKTOWAGA – The four town council candidates competing for three spots on the democratic line in November's election spent a combined \$40,951.39 on September's primary election according to campaign disclosure reports.

Newcomer Brian Nowak who was the leading vote-getter on September 12th was also the leader when it came to fundraising and expenditures. Councilmember Alice Magierski who trails Councilmember James Rogowski by only 44 votes outraised and outspent Mr. Rogowski by \$4,151.00 and \$2,045.06 respectively. Mr. Rogowski and Ms. Magierski await the results of the 203 absentee ballots to see who will land the third democratic spot in November. Cheektowaga Chronicle has learned that the final election results should be certified by the Erie County Board of Elections early next week.

Brain Nowak | \$17,200.29 raised | \$16,002.98 spent

Brain Nowak established his campaign war chest on February 28th with a \$1,000.00 personal check. Individual donations started to pour in soon after from online PayPal donations and three fundraisers.

Campaign disclosure reports show that a majority of his donors live in the City of Buffalo and other communities outside of Cheektowaga. Among the Cheektowaga supporters were Supervisor Diane Benczkowski (\$190.00), Town Clerk Vickie Dankowski (\$30.00), Councilmember Linda Hammer (\$50.00), Councilmember James Rogowski (\$50.00), and Budget Director Stan Kaznowski (\$100.00).



Submitted campaign photo of Brain Nowak.

Mr. Nowak raised \$17,200.29 double the amount raised by any of his primary challengers. Unlike his challengers, however, Mr. Nowak spent almost a quarter of his funds or \$4,291.64 on wages for campaign workers. His top two wage earners were Matt Dearing a co-chair with Local Liberty Union Progressives (formally Buffalo for Bernie Sanders) and Theresa Shaffer a regional field director for Bernie 2016.

Matt Dearing, of Buffalo, was listed as campaign manager in a July disclosure report and earned \$1,000.00. Theresa Shaffer, of Buffalo, was listed as campaign manager during the final stretch of the campaign and earned \$1,791.64. General campaign workers; Daniel Jones, of Cheektowaga earned \$907.50; Adama Brown, of Warsaw, earned \$510.00; and Charles Hess, of Cheektowaga, earned \$82.50.

Mr. Nowak closed out the primary election with \$1,197.31 remaining.

James Rogowski | \$4,529.00 raised | \$6,964.66 spent

James Rogowski started off 2017 with \$12,098.55 in his campaign account.

He raised \$4,529.00 with most of his new funds coming in a month before the primary. Individual contributions total \$1,250.00 with Supervisor Diane Benczkowski (\$100.00) and Budget Director Stan Kaznowski (\$100.00) listed among the 13 individual contributors. An August fundraiser brought in another \$1,049.00, and corporate contributions totaled \$1,680.00. The law firm Hodgson & Russ LLP, which represents Mr. Rogowski and other board members in a defamation lawsuit brought by Highway Superintendent Mark Wegner contributed \$200.00.



Submitted campaign photo of Jim Rogowski.

Mr. Rogowski spent 6,964.66 and closed out the primary election with \$11,419.35 remaining.

Alice Magierski | \$8,680.00 raised | \$9,009.72 spent

Alice Magierski had \$366.21 in her account going into July. She and her husband added \$1,000.00 to the account on July 17th.

She hired two Buffalo residents as campaign workers totaling \$1,140.00. Angel Wright earned \$570, and Rhiana Bassham earned \$570.00.

Her campaign raised \$8,680.00 this primary season with the help of two big donors. Buffalo attorney Peter Reese

contributed \$1,000.00 and his wife Ellen Reese contributed \$1,500.00. Unlike her primary challengers, she did not receive a contribution from Supervisor Benczkowski.

According to Mr. Reese, during the campaign, he fought to keep Ms. Magierski's name on the ballot after a campaign worker from Mr. Nowak's campaign challenged the validity of Ms. Magierski's petitions. There were no listed expenditures to Mr. Reese.

Ms. Magierski withdrew \$1,175.48 on August 28th for a personal reimbursement. She closed out the primary election with \$36.48 remaining.



Submitted campaign photo of Alice Magierski.

Timothy Meyers | \$7,700.54 raised | \$8,974.03 spent

Timothy Meyers kicked off 2017 with \$2,791.02 in his campaign account and raised another \$7,700.54 through the primary campaign.

Individual contributions totaled \$6,135.00. Of that money, his colleagues in local government contributed \$675.00; Supervisor Diane Benczkowski (\$300.00); Friends of Mark Wegner (\$250.00); Councilmember Linda Hammer (\$50.00); Budget Director Stan Kaznowski (\$50); and Town Clerk Vickie Dankowski (\$25).

The law firm Hodgson & Russ LLP contributed a total of \$300.00. Mr. Meyers received another \$250.00 in corporate contributions.

Mr. Meyers withdrew \$833.00 on August 11th for a loan repayment. He spent \$8,974.03 and closed out the primary election with \$1,696.99 remaining.



Submitted campaign photo of Tim Meyers.

The Buffalo Chronicle

Primary drama divides HQ, as Reese goes to work

Gayle Syposs, the former Deputy Elections Commissioner and City of Tonawanda Chairwoman, defected from the Hillary Clinton camp of the party and publicly announced her support of Bernie Sanders several months ago on social media.

Chairman Jeremy Zellner and his mentor, the Election Commissioner Len Lenihan, rely heavily on the support of Gayle Syposs to retain their control of the committee.

"It is totally untrue as it relates to me and a split; I support Chairman Zellner and ECDC period," she claims. But on Facebook, her support of Sanders is unabashed and unapologetic.

Defections have also been seen in the opposition faction as well.

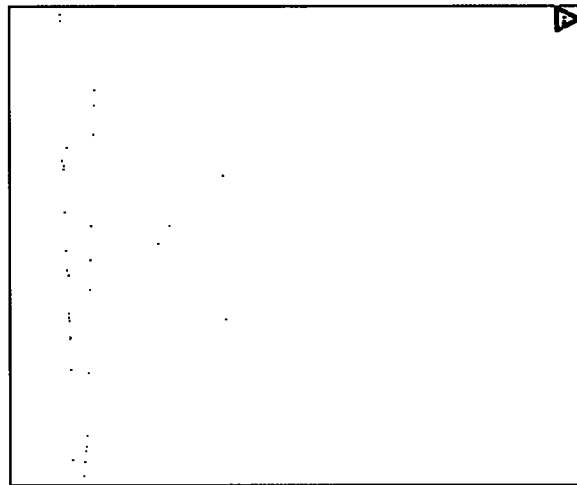
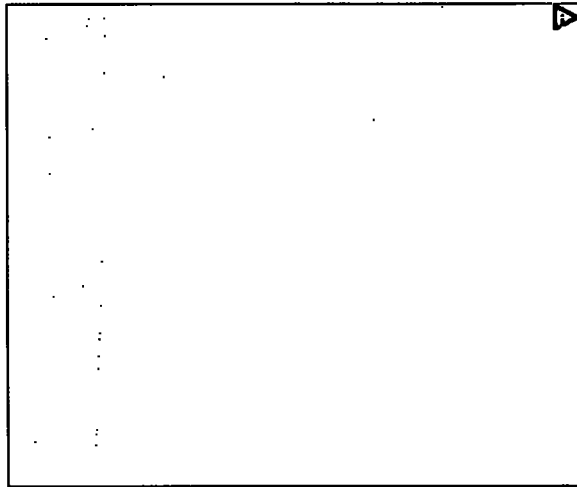
Local attorney and well known political saboteur, Peter Reese, is ostensibly breaking with his longtime partner in crime to support the insurgent presidential candidacy of Bernie Sanders. Reese is the longtime political compatriot of the renowned operative G. Steven Pigeon, a friend and confidant of both Bill and Hillary Clinton.

Reese and Pigeon are so close that some refer to Reese as "Pigeon's brain." With the Bolton St. James lobbyist, Camille Brandon, the triumvirate are thought to control a considerable faction of local Democrats, comprising between 20% and 25% of the governing committee's weighted vote.

"That that circle of professional operatives would be broken over the drama of a presidential primary speaks to the passion behind Sanders' support and the division inside the party," says a former state legislator who asked not to be named.

Peter A. Reese is a retired attorney and University at Buffalo trained engineer whose longtime political activities have earned him a reputation. His unwieldy style and deeply satirical tone allow him to mask loyalties and dupe aspiring candidates.

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ZEITGEIST

☐ BERNIE SANDERS ☐ GAYLE SYPOSS ☐ HILLARY CLINTON
☐ PETER REESE ☐ STEVE PIGEON

Published by The Buffalo Chronicle

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9 comments

1. **Sandra Fournier** says:
DECEMBER 23, 2015 AT 4:09 AM

0

3

i
Rate This

Peter Reese is a hero!

REPLY

2. **Bruce Kogan** says:
DECEMBER 24, 2015 AT 12:34 AM

2

0

i
Rate This

Peter Reese is a douchebag, but that's besides the point. Pray tell how did Peter Reese sabotage a candidate and just who was said candidate.

REPLY

3. **Sandra Fournier** says:
DECEMBER 24, 2015 AT 2:07 AM

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1

i
Rate This

You haven't convinced me to hate Peter Reese.

REPLY

4. Sandra Fournier says:
DECEMBER 24, 2015 AT 5:39 AM

0

2

i
Rate This

I think that Peter Reese is a super nice person!

REPLY

5. bflojloroadrunnercom says:
DECEMBER 24, 2015 AT 12:23 PM

2

0

i
Rate This

Peter Reese is a Rat and lies. Nothing but an opportunist.

REPLY

o Bruce Kogan says:
DECEMBER 24, 2015 AT 12:26 PM

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Rate This

On his best days. Although God only knows what opportunities he has.

REPLY

6. Gayle Syposs says:

DECEMBER 29, 2015 AT 6:44 PM

0

0

i

Rate This

As I have posted here before and it has been removed, this is inaccurate

REPLY

o The News Desk says:

DECEMBER 29, 2015 AT 6:51 PM

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Rate This

Gayle I took your quote from the comment and included it in the story, which is why it was removed from the comment section ... If you have additional quotes that you would like to include about your Facebook endorsement of Bernie sanders or any other insight into your thinking, please do forward that. 😊

REPLY

o gayle syposs says:

DECEMBER 29, 2015 AT 6:58 PM

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Rate This

reposting of psotitions of Bernie Sanders does not mean an endorsement. I happen to agree with many of Sanders positions but will be circulating Hillary Clinton petitions soon. My hope all along was that the Sanders campaign would have some effect on Democrats nationally

Gayle Syposs Tonawanda, NY

REPLY

CF-03**COMMITTEE AUTHORIZATION STATUS**NEW YORK STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Section 14-112 of NYS Election LawTHIS FORM MUST CONTAIN ORIGINAL SIGNATURES IN INK AND BE COMPLETED IN FULL

Please check one:



New Form



Amended Form (provide Filer ID#): _____

NAME OF COMMITTEE: Buffalo for Bernie

For Acronyms (see instructions): _____

- A. List in this section those candidates who have authorized your committee to aid or take part in their election or nomination (other than by making contributions). Provide name, office and district. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

1. Date of Election: _____ Office/ District: _____

Candidate's Full Name: _____

Candidate's Residential Address: _____ Apartment # _____

2. Date of Election: _____ Office/ District: _____

Candidate's Full Name: _____

Candidate's Residential Address: _____ Apartment # _____

3. Date of Election: _____ Office/ District: _____

Candidate's Full Name: _____

Candidate's Residential Address: _____ Apartment # _____

- B. List those candidates for whom your committee is aiding or taking part in their election or nomination (other than by making contributions) but who have not authorized your committee to do so. (Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

1. Date of Election: 11/5/16 Office/ District: PresidentCandidate's Full Name: Bernie Sanders

2. Date of Election: _____ Office/ District: _____

Candidate's Full Name: _____

3. Date of Election: _____ Office/ District: _____

Candidate's Full Name: _____

VERIFICATION STATEMENT BY TREASURERI Charles A. Pochalski
(Print Full Name of Treasurer)

being duly sworn, depose and say that the information provided on this form is complete, true and correct.

Sworn to before me this 31st dayof August 20 15Peter A. Reese
(Notary Public or Commissioner of Deeds)
State of New YorkQualified in Erie County
My Commission Expires 1/30/18**Clear Form**Charles A. Pochalski
Signature of Committee Treasurer126 Fargo Avenue
Residential Address

Buffalo, NY 14201

(716) 359-0194

Contact Phone Number

RECEIVED**SEP 28 2015**
State Board of Election